



Looking Forward

Everything we do at the Indiana Department of Environmental Management is geared toward making Indiana a cleaner, healthier place to live. Indiana's prosperity and our quality of life depend greatly on the quality of our environment.

Indiana has made demonstrable progress in cleaning up the state's land, air and water. Admittedly, much work remains. During the past two years, IDEM has become more accountable by setting goals and measures of success, more responsive by holding frequent public meetings and focusing on customers' concerns and more proactive by launching programs that protect children in their environments.

IDEM has invested in communities by providing \$200 million in low-interest, State Revolving Fund loans to 46 Hoosier communities to clean up Indiana's waters by improving and expanding wastewater treatment facilities and to help communities provide residents with clean, safe drinking water. We brought IDEM closer to the people by opening Northern Indiana and Southwestern Indiana regional offices. IDEM delivered quality service not only by reducing a significant backlog of permits, but by processing new permits promptly.

We looked inward at our staff's needs by offering college tuition reimbursement, management training and alternate work schedules. And possibly most important, IDEM protected Hoosier children by identifying and educating their parents about lead hazards in and around the home, collecting over 2,000 pounds of mercury and helping more than 9,000 students learn how to become good environmental stewards.

More challenges await IDEM. In response, we have developed four new priorities on which to focus our efforts during the next two years. As the agency rolls out these priorities, you will hear about, and hopefully, experience the benefits from them.

Throughout our work at IDEM, one thing is certain - environmental protection is first and foremost about people. Each and everything we do at IDEM is with an eye toward the quality of life and health of all Hoosiers. I hope you find the information contained in this annual report informative and useful.



Lori F. Kaplan

Lori F. Kaplan
Commissioner